

TIP OF THE

Dec. 10, 2004

# SWORD

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey



**No more millions**  
**YTL arrives Jan. 1**

# TIP OF THE SWORD

Volume 33 ♦ Number 47 ♦  
http://source/39ABW\_PA/html/tos.html

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## Correction

The photographer for the photo on Page 6 of the Dec. 3 edition of the *Tip of the Sword* was incorrectly identified as Ken Hackman. The correct photographer is Senior Airman Dallas Edwards.

The photographer for the photos on the back Page of the Dec. 3 edition of the *Tip of the Sword* was incorrectly identified as Senior Airman Dallas Edwards. The correct photographer is Senior Airman James Seymore III.



Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, deputy chief of staff for personnel, speaks with several Incirlik Airmen after a briefing he gave on Force Shaping. See related story, Page 6.

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## On the cover:

**Gulbin Van Alstine, 39th Comptroller Squadron cashier, puts turkish lira through a money counting machine to finish up the day. (Photo by Airman Bradley Lail)**

### Editorial Staff

Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing Commander  
Capt. Rickardo Bodden, Public Affairs Chief  
1st Lt. S.J.B. Bryant, Public Affairs Deputy Chief  
Tech. Sgt. Robert Burgess, Public Affairs NCOIC  
Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda, Internal Information, NCOIC  
Senior Airman Jessica Switzer, Editor  
Mehmet Birbiri, Host Nation Adviser  
**10th Tanker Base Commander**  
Brig. Gen. H. Levent Turkmen

The 39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the *Tip of the Sword*. The 39th ABW Public Affairs Office (Unit 7090, Box 135, APO AE 09824-5153) is located in Building 833, Room 274.  
**Submissions:** The editor or other *Tip of the Sword* staff will edit or re-write material for clarity brevity or to conform with the Associated Press Style Guide, local policy and Air Force style as required by Air Force Instruction 35-101. Contributions for the *Tip of the Sword* can be made through e-mail to tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil. The editor can be reached at 676-6060. **Deadlines:** Submission deadlines are Wednesday, nine days, prior to publication date. If submissions are publishable, they run based on space available and priority. **Disclaimer:** The *Tip of the Sword* is printed by Kemal Matbaasi, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written agreement with the 39th Air Base Wing. This funded Air Force magazine is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas. Unless otherwise noted, photographs are Air Force photos. The *Tip of the Sword* uses information from the Armed Forces Information Service, Air Force News Service, U.S. Forces in Europe News Service and other sources. Contents of *Tip of the Sword* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the U.S. Air Force. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. **Contact Information:** To reach the 39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff, call 6-3217, fax 6-6492, e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil or stop by Building 833, Room 274.



# Incirlik welcomes DECA team NEWS

By Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda  
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Defense and Economic Cooperation Agency team arrived Tuesday and conducted their 24th annual evaluation Wednesday through Friday.

This annual survey isn't pass or fail, but is an evaluation of the bilateral agreement between Turkey and the United States. This agreement, established in 1980, sets the operating rules for U.S. military presence in Turkey.

"We have made progress in a number of areas since the last DECA visit," said Col. Robert Suminsby, 39th Air Base Wing vice commander. "And our continued goal is to use the DECA visit to help build on the successful relationship the two sides have enjoyed over our nearly 50 year history."

During a DECA visit, the team views firsthand Incirlik and its geographically separated units to evaluate operations and ensure the United States complies with Turkish laws and

requirements.

The team is comprised of representatives from the Turkish Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Labor, Environment and Customs Directorate; as well as from the U.S. Office of Defense Cooperation and the U.S. Embassy.

"The DECA team's evaluation will focus on six major areas: leadership, customs, labor, security and law enforcement, construction and environment, and communications," said Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th ABW commander. "The ultimate goal of the DECA visit is to build on 50 years of bilateral partnership to achieve mission success. It also keeps the lines of communication open while offering an opportunity to build new relationships and enhance existing friendships."

With variations in Turkish and American laws and the differences in the way the two countries do things, reaching and maintaining a state of cooperation is critical.

"Naturally there are some challenges for the two sides to work out," Colonel Suminsby said. "We are hoping that this DECA process

and dialogue will lead to a common understanding of these issues, and a plan for a mutually agreeable 'way ahead.'"

Once the evaluation is complete a written report is produced. Although some opportunities for improvement highlighted in the report can be addressed at base level, others may require policy-level changes.

"Brig. Gen. Turkmen (10th Tanker Base commander) and I are committed to working together to find resolutions to any challenges that need addressing," Colonel Gardiner said. "DECA is the tool Turks and Americans use to raise issues and resolve problems as we work to build a stronger alliance for the future."

"As we head into the New Year the written report from DECA helps us better identify the challenges ahead," Colonel Suminsby said. "Turkey has been an ally for many years and the DECA process is an excellent way to manage our association as we continually strive to enhance our relationship with our Turkish hosts."

## Postal procrastination puts packages in peril

By 1st Lt. S.J.B. Bryant  
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Saturday is the last day to mail priority packages and first-class letters to the United States from an APO or FPO address for guaranteed delivery by Christmas Day.

"A lot of people either procrastinate or simply forget during the hustle and bustle of the season," said Staff. Sgt. Greg Yancey, NCO in charge of official mail at the Official Documents Center. "It has been a very busy year for all of us and we tend to put things on the backburner. But imagine the look on your loved one's face when they receive gifts a couple of days after the holidays because it was not a 'priority.'"

According to the United States Postal Service, the most important thing to remember is to be prepared and mail early. Have customs forms and paperwork ready before mailing items. More importantly, know the weight limits and shipping restrictions for each country. For example, the maximum shipping weight from Turkey is 70 pounds. Packages cannot contain perishables or liquids. For more information on restrictions, visit the USPS Web site at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).


Those who procrastinated or forgot to mail holiday packages can probably expect a wait at the ODC Saturday, said Sergeant Yancey. So he urges people to mail packages now due to the plethora of mail flowing through the center daily. Incirlik alone is responsible for shipping approximately 22,000 pounds of mail since Nov. 1 (that equates to more than 1,000 packages) and receiving more than 40,000 pounds of mail.

The holiday season is so busy from Nov. 15 through Jan. 15 the ODC had to call in reinforcements from the U.S. Air Force Reserve out of Westover, Mass., just to handle the barrage of letters, cards, parcels and documents, said Sergeant Yancey.

"I have been a postal specialist for more than five years and have seen just about every thing around the holidays but it still shocks me when people mail a package from Turkey Dec. 24 and think it will take only 24-hours to reach the states," said Sergeant Yancey, who admits even postal workers like himself are not perfect and that he just mailed his parent's presents. "This is the busiest time of the year. We believe in the spirit of giving and goodwill toward men but we are so busy we have to ask for volunteers just to help us sort and distribute the 100 plus packages we receive each and every day. With all this mail coming and going, It's no wonder why these deadlines are followed closer now more than ever."

For people who wait until after the USPS guaranteed Christmas Day delivery deadline, Sergeant Yancey reminds them the ODC has no express-mail service.

For more information, call the ODC at 6-6301.



To ensure a Christmas delivery to the United States, mail packages and letters no later than the following dates:

- ◆ Priority Parcels — Saturday
- ◆ First Class Letters — Saturday



USAFE

# Airman Information File

December 2004

## Service Before Self -- It's Bigger Than Us!

Integrity first, Service before Self and Excellence in all we do -- these are the Air Force core values. Service before Self is often quoted but not always fully understood. It's frequently used as a catchphrase to motivate subordinates to do the less desirable jobs, but the real meaning is much deeper than this.

We are professional Airmen on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to guard and defend the freedom of America -- a grave responsibility we should not take lightly. As Airmen, we belong to something much larger than our individual units. We're members of the USAFE team, which forms a vital part of our Air Force, and ultimately we're all Americans.

Laying aside our own agenda to accomplish the mission is the essence of Service before Self. It's the exact opposite of careerism, where individuals only focus on what is best for their personal careers. It means doing all we can for our unit which translates to the success of the Air Force and America. This core value is exemplified when Airmen willingly make personal sacrifices for the greater cause of our nation. Many have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in defense of our freedom.

On the practical side, Service before Self means we follow the rules. Don't bend or break them for personal gain or gratification. It means we respect each other and value everyone's individual contributions to the team. Discipline and self-control are key elements that allow us to achieve this core value. Finally, have faith in the system. When you think you know best and disregard those above, you've lost faith in the system and place self before service.

One of the greatest strengths of America is our single unity of purpose. We have the freedom to voice our opinions and discuss national issues in our government. Often these can be very emotional and heated debates, but in the end America has always stood unified in the face of opposition. This unity of purpose is clearly seen from the Revolutionary War to present day operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. It's a direct result of Americans setting aside personal desires and uniting against a common threat for the greater good of our nation and others.

Service before Self -- it's bigger than each individual. Thanks for continuing to place Service before Self as we guard the freedoms of America!

General Doc Foglesong

CMSgt Gary Coleman

*"Bring Your Courage"*

# Incirlik receives early gifts

By Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda  
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Blues Traveler and the New England Patriots Cheerleaders combined with the U.S. Air Force Reserve Command and the U.S. Air Forces in Europe bands to entertain the Incirlik community Wednesday.

"As the holiday season approaches it is important that, while we are accomplishing the mission, people take a break from their hard work to unwind, relax and distress," said Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander. "This opportunity was a great time to be able to do just that."

The AFRC and USAFE bands opened the musical segment to warm up the crowd before the platinum-selling artists Blues Traveler took the stage. The crowd seemed energized as Blues Traveler played several hits, including their Grammy-winning single "Run Around." The band, which consists of John Popper, Chan Kinchla, Brendan Hill, Tad Kinchla and Ben Wilson, still holds the record for the longest time on the Billboard Music chart, according to their Web site.

"The Operation Season's Greetings tour is exactly what the chief of staff of the Air Force prioritizes for Air Force bands," said Dave Ballengee, AFRC band deputy director, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. "We're going to forward deployed locations (like Incirlik) for the morale

of the troops and their families."

The Patriots Cheerleaders' seemingly tireless energy and winning smiles were also well received by the crowd. From football-talk to high energy performances and crowd interaction, the cheerleaders seemed to really enjoy this opportunity to visit people here at Incirlik.

"I volunteered to visit the troops because I welcome the opportunity to give something back to the men and women who devote their lives to protect our country," said Amber van Eeghen, a cheerleader from Cranston, R.I.

"It's really an eye-opener to meet and greet the troops and see what they do," said Alison Preston, a cheerleader from Bedford, N.H. "I hope our show [reminded] them of home so they know how much we and everyone back home cares."

The show ended with a dedication to the troops for all they do and the crowd swelled with applause.

"This visit was a great success," Colonel Gardiner said. "And I would like to thank the people in the Incirlik community who helped make it so. I can't mention everyone, but just know – from the security forces to the services folks, from the many volunteers to the people at the 728th Air Mobility Squadron, and everyone in between – your hard work is greatly appreciated." (*Information contributed from Operations Season's Greetings*)



IN  
BRIEF

## Tip of the Sword survey

The *Tip of the Sword* is conducting a readership survey. To participate in the survey go to [http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/survey\\_index.htm](http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/survey_index.htm). Readers submit a user name and then choose Incirlik from a list of bases. The survey consists of 34 multiple-choice questions and a comment section. For more information, call public affairs at 6-6060.

## Road closure

There is a partial road closure on 7th street between "B" street and "D" street until Jan. 3. In this section of the street only northbound traffic may pass. This closure is in support of antiterrorism and force protection contract work. The buildings directly affected are: 925, 926, 934 and 936. For more information, call Paul Swinney, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron, chief of construction management, at 6-8020.

## No Tip of the Sword

There will be no paper for two weeks after the Dec. 17 edition of the *Tip of the Sword*. The next paper will come out Jan. 7.

## TMO closed

The Traffic Management Offices in buildings 883, 430 and 118 close from noon to 4:30 p.m. Thursday. For emergencies, call the command post at 6-9920.

## MSS closed

The 39th Mission Support Squadron closes at 2:30 p.m. today for an official function. For more information, call MSS customer service at 6-3280.

## Office closure

The 39th Air Base Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate closes noon Dec. 17 for an official function. For emergencies, call the command post at 6-9920.

## WICO closed

The Women, Infants and Children Overseas office is closed Dec. 18 to Jan. 4. For emergencies, call the WICO regional office at Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, at DSN 226-9016.

## Turkish Lira getting makeover Jan. 1



The YTL drops the last six zeros from the end of the currency.



The YKr functions like the U.S. penny. 100 YKr = 1 YTL

**Capt. Christopher Schmuke**  
39th Comptroller Flight

In January, the Turkish Lira is getting a new face; a new Turkish law eliminates the last six zeros from their currency.

The currency is called the Yeni Turkish Lira. "Yeni" is the Turkish word for new.

The subunit of the YTL is the Yeni Kurus, the function of the YKr is much like that of the penny in the United States. One YTL equals 100 YKr.

The new bank notes are in denominations of one, five, 10, 20, 50 and 100. There are coins for one, five, 10, 25 and 50 YKr and one YTL.

Both the old and new Turkish Lira will be in circulation for one year. The old TL will be pulled from circulation Jan. 1, 2006; however old TL can be exchanged for the new TL for a period of 10 years.

Price labeling in 2005 should be in both the TL and YTL format.

For more information, call finance at 6-3122.



# AF's top Personnelist talks to Incirlik Airmen

**Senior Airman Jessica Switzer**  
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

It was time to "spread the word" when the Air Force's top man in charge of personnel arrived Tuesday to talk to Airmen here about force shaping and a host of other topics.

"The great thing about the personnel service is that you get to do good things for people," said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, deputy chief of staff for personnel. "The bad thing is not everyone thinks what you are doing is good."

The general felt the most visible issue at hand is the effort the Air Force is making to return to its authorized end strength.

Since 1999 recruiting and retention have been rising steadily, the general said. After Sept. 11, 2001 there were even people who changed their minds about leaving the service.

"The Air Force has been a victim of its own success," General Brady said. "We found ourselves with approximately 22,000

more people than we're authorized to have."

A number of programs were developed to allow people to transition out of the military into the civilian workforce, into Guard or Reserve units or even into another service.

This should help the Air Force get back to its authorized number of people.

"By Sept. 30 we'll be back down to our authorized end strength, which is about 359,700 people," said General Brady. "I think any decline after that will be much more gradual."

He attributed this to taking about half of the required reduction from recruiting in career fields that are already over manned.

"I think it's a great way to do a draw down in a way that does not break faith with these great people who have made us the successful Air Force we are," the general said.

General Brady also touched on topics like the Airmen culture and adding physical fitness to enlisted and officer performance reports.

The culture of Airmen is who we are and

what we are he said. It focuses mainly on respect and the Air Force core values. Integrity is about respecting yourself and what you do. Service is respecting the institution of the Air Force. Excellence is about mutual respect each other and knowing that everyone contributes to the whole.

With the new physical fitness program firmly in place Chief of Staff of the Air Force General John Jumper and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Gerald Murray have expressed an interest in getting physical fitness reflected on a person's performance report, said General Brady.

One of the main concerns for the general is getting it right.

"We don't want to create a paradigm where if you don't score 100 you aren't good enough," he said. "The issue is fitness, not the score."

Right now the general said he doesn't know when the change will come or how it will be handled but it is on the way.

## Flag-flying donations warm American hearts, Afghan feet

**By 2nd Lt. Michael Sheley**  
455th Expeditionary Operations Group Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan (AFPN)** — The excitement in the eyes of the Afghan children was mirrored on the faces of two American civilians as a truck carrying bags full of winter shoes backed into an orphanage courtyard recently. Donations received from the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing's flag-flying program ensured that more than 300 orphans living in nearby Charikar village will have warm shoes for winter.

Mili Suits stands with a group of Afghan children here. She visited the village orphanage to help distribute \$300 worth of shoes to the children residing in the youth shelter. Funds for the footwear were donations raised through the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing's flag-flying program at nearby Bagram Air Base. Ms. Suits is an airfield manager participating in the Air Force Contract Augmentation Program.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Michael Sheley

Barry McKelvy, who runs the program, said the sight of orphans coming up one-by-one to receive their shoes warmed his heart. The airfield manager raised more than \$300 in donations since September flying flags over the Bagram tower, the highest place here. The money from these donations is used to purchase items for children residing in three different orphanages.

Local interpreters who work at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, volunteer to purchase the items from local shops. The donated items are made in Afghanistan, which helps the local economy and ensures that 100 percent of the program's funds benefit the children.

When Mr. McKelvy took over the program to create souvenirs for friends and family in the United States, he said he never imagined that it would lead him "outside the wire" to local orphanages.

"All the kiddos are so cute, I wish I could take some of them home with me," said the retired Air Force noncommissioned officer.

Mili Suits, who works with Mr. McKelvy in airfield management and accompanied him on the orphanage visit, was born in Lima, Peru, but calls Manassas, Va. home. Her long black hair and lack of a burka immediately drew curious stares from the young children.

"These children remind me of the children back in Peru ... how poverty stricken people can be, but they still make it in life," she said. "It's nice to see children; their innocence is irreplaceable."

It was the first trip off the base for both of them. They are working here with the Air Force Contract Augmentation Program for a second year.

"We've been here over a year and this is our first chance to get outside the base and see how the local people are living," said Ms. Suits. "It reminds us why we are here, to help these people."

Next time, Mr. McKelvy said he plans to give the children toys. "I want to give these children something they want instead of something they need," he said.

# CMSAF Murray shares insight on fitness

By Tech. Sgt. Cindy Dorfner  
100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

**ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England (AFPN)** —

Almost a year into the Air Force's new fitness program, the service's senior enlisted Airman said he is happy with some things, but said the program is "not where it needs to be yet."

"(Air Force chief of staff Gen. John P. Jumper and I) are pleased, but we're not so naïve to think you can change a culture in one year," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray during a visit to Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England and at nearby RAF Lakenheath Nov. 27 and 28.

The chief said Air Force fitness centers have seen a 30-percent increase in usage in the past year.

"As we go around bases today, we're seeing much more activity. People are out running, and they're in the gym," he said. "Airmen tell me they're in the best shape they've ever been, and they feel a lot better."

The chief said more emphasis is being placed on fitness resources, such as new and renovated fitness centers and getting the right equipment in the facilities.

"But," Chief Murray said, "you don't need special equipment to go out and run, and do pushups and crunches. It does help to have weights and treadmills and those sorts of things available to use and increase fitness levels."

What will also help, he said, is for Airmen to incorporate this

lifestyle change into their normal schedules.

"The program hasn't been fully embraced enough. Some have taken the test, and they've put too much emphasis on the test instead of making working out a part of the normal routine," the chief said.

"I asked a first sergeant about his squadron's fitness program. He said, 'Well, we've just about got everyone tested.' I said, 'OK, but tell me about your physical fitness program. I want to know what you're doing to get people out there to work out.' He couldn't tell me," Chief Murray said.

The program is more than just a test, the chief said. With the number of Airmen deployed to combat environments, it is about readiness and being able to function in austere conditions. He also said it is important for Airmen to maintain a good, healthy lifestyle to fend off disease and medical problems.

While Airmen adapt to the new lifestyle of being fit to fight, the fitness program has been under review during its inaugural year. Chief Murray said there will be some changes, but not many.

"I can tell you what not to expect, and that is major changes. The test will not become easier than it is," he said. "This program is about what it takes to maintain a good fitness level."

One change Airmen can expect deals specifically with the Air Force instruction governing the program. The chief said the instruction will make clearer the actions commanders can take toward those not meeting the standards. (Courtesy U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service)



Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

## Bowling for suits

Master Sgt. Larry Schneck, Armed Forces Network Detachment 7 chief, participated in a bowl-a-thon to raise money for the Wing Holiday Gala.



**Paintball** — Outdoor recreation sponsors a paintball trip Saturday. Entry fee of \$20 includes all equipment, 100 paintballs and lunch. For more information, call 6-6044.

**Jingle Bell run/walk** — The fitness center sponsors a 5K run walk 8 a.m. Dec. 18 at Arkadas Park. Each male and female winner in the three age categories, 18 to 29, 30 to 39, and over 40 win a ham. All participants receive a t-shirt and jingle bells. For more information, call at 6-6086.

**Noel Project CHEER outing** — The Hodja Lakes Golf Course sponsors a four person 9-hole scramble 9 a.m. Dec. 18. The entry fee is \$7.50 per person, green fees and cart not included. Deadline to sign up is Thursday. For more information, call 6-3313.

**Intramural basketball** — The fitness center sponsors intramural basketball games 6:30 p.m.,

7:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays at the fitness center gymnasium. For more information, call at 6-6086.

**Fitness classes** — The fitness center offers a number of fitness classes throughout the week. There are classes for aerobic fitness, self defense, fitness improvement program and cycling. For more information, call 6-6086.

**Skeet and trap shooting** — Outdoor recreation offers skeet and trap shooting Tuesdays through Fridays by appointment. Open shooting begins Saturdays at 9 a.m. Cost is \$10, with shells and clays. For more information, call 6-6044.

**Massage therapy** — The fitness center has two licensed massage therapists on staff. People can schedule appointments Mondays through Sundays between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. For more information, call 6-6086.

**Bicycle maintenance** — Outdoor recreation offers bicycle maintenance and repair from basic tune-up to parts replacement. For more information, call 6-6044.

**Birthday special** — The Hodja Lakes Golf Course offers free green fee and club rental for birthdays from noon to dusk. For more information call 6-3313.

# COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



By Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander

## Holiday Party

Many thanks to those who attended the Wing's Holiday Gala Saturday. It wouldn't have been nearly as much fun as it was without your enthusiastic participation.

Special thanks to those who helped make it happen.

## Holiday Safety

As the holidays draw nearer, squadron and private holiday parties are increasing. While there's no problem going to these parties remember to be responsible if you decide to drink alcoholic beverages. Here are a few tips and bits of information to keep in mind:

- ♦ If you are going to be attending an event where you will be drinking, do not drive. Arrange for other transportation. One way is to designate a driver for your group, or call 6-RIDE.
- ♦ Carry extra money for a cab and for a phone call to obtain a ride.
- ♦ Be a responsible host, friend and co-worker. Help ensure that others get home safely. Keep in mind what the Wingman concept is all about.
- ♦ Time is the only cure for intoxication. Black coffee, cold show-

ers, fresh air, exercise and other remedies will not sober you up.

♦ There is no safe limit for drinking before you drive. You can actually be impaired at an alcohol level well below the legal limit. You are safest if you completely separate drinking from driving.

♦ A party tonight followed by eight hours sleep does not necessarily make you a safe and sober tomorrow. Drivers have been convicted of drinking and driving offenses occurring the day after a party.

## Driving in bad weather

We are well into Turkey's rainy winter season. It may be required that you drive in poor weather conditions.

Here are a few tips to keep you safe on the road;

- ♦ Before you start out, ensure your entire windshield and all windows/mirrors are clear.
- ♦ Keep brake and signal lights clear of ice and snow.
- ♦ Keep your eyes moving to be aware of the traffic situation all around you. Don't just concentrate on what is right in front of you. Scan the distance and glance frequently at your mirrors. If you receive information too late you will have to make a sudden move; watch and anticipate hazards.
- ♦ As a minimum, double the following distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you. Maintain as much free space around your vehicle as possible. Keep the sides and rear of your vehicle as clear of other vehicles as possible.
- ♦ Adjust your speed to road conditions. Allow more travel time.
- ♦ Avoid sudden steering movements. Be ready to steer smoothly as you approach a curve.

## Force Protection

Whether staying here or traveling abroad this holiday season remember to keep force protection on your mind. Report any suspicious activity to the law enforcement desk at 6-3200. Force Protection-your life depends on it.

# Air Force member shares father's suicide

By 2nd Lt. Shannon Collins  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**SPANGDAHLEMAIR BASE, Germany (AFPN)** — As I hear songs like "Butterfly Kisses" and "Daddy's Hands," and as I watch a movie like "Father of the Bride," the words "self-inflicted gunshot wound" echo in my mind.

I will never have that special relationship between a father and a daughter. I won't have anyone to walk me down the aisle or to celebrate Father's Day with. And it isn't because of a tragic automobile accident or a physical disease; it's because of suicide.

In fiscal 2004, the Air Force had 57 suicides. Fifty percent of those cases involved Airmen between the ages of 17 and 24. My father was 30 when he did it — the age I am now.

His death certificate reads "massive laceration of brain" and "shotgun wound of the face." He shot himself Dec. 12, 1979, and lived until Dec. 29, 1979. He was buried New Year's Eve. Not only did he punish his family members with his loss, but with the sight of

him bloody and broken in the hospital for 17 days.

Suicide ranks third as a cause of death among young Americans ages 15 to 24, behind accidents and homicides, according to the American Association of Suicidology. It is the 11th leading cause of death overall.

Capt. Ruth Roa-Navarette, from the Spangdahlem Air Base life skills clinic, said, though most Air Force suicides occurred between July and September this year, people should be extra mindful to reach out to those who may be at risk or alone during the holiday season.

The death certificate also reads "acute ethanolism," which means he was very intoxicated at the time. In 2004, alcohol abuse accounted for about 19 percent of suicides across the Air Force.

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence states that "alcoholism is a primary, chronic disease with genetic, psychosocial and environmental factors influencing its development and manifestations. The disease is often

progressive and fatal. It is characterized by continuous or periodic impaired control over drinking, preoccupation with the drug alcohol, use of alcohol despite adverse consequences, and distortions in thinking, most notably denial."

The jury is out on why my father did what he did. We will always wonder. I will have to live with what he did for the rest of my life.

No matter how overwhelming a situation can be — whether it is financial difficulties, receiving punishment in the military, or personal life twists and turns, anyone who considers suicide as the only way out should think of his or her parents, of the family and friends who may be far away but who care for him or her. Chaplains, life skills representatives, co-workers and supervisors are also there to listen.

With a little research, you can find a number of Web sites that provide information on suicide, suicide statistics or support groups for survivors of suicide. For immediate help, call a base chaplain or the life skills center. Most importantly, get help.





## Ask MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri, Host Nation Adviser

### Whirling in prayer

*"Come, come, whoever whatever you are.*

*Come again infidel, idolator or fire-worshiper come again.*

*Our monastery is not a place of despair,  
Even if you have violated your oaths a  
hundred times, come again."*

And millions, from every corner of the earth, have accepted that invitation throughout the centuries.

The founder of the Whirling Dervishes, Mevlana Celaleddin-i Rumi's message of love, brotherhood and tolerance was so powerfully expressed in his poetry that his teaching spread throughout the Moslem world even before his death Dec. 17, 1273.

Thousands of tourist and pilgrims will go to Konya next week to observe the Whirling Dervishes dance. Mevlevi disciples come from throughout Turkey to celebrate the wedding night of their founder.

Konya (ancient Iconium), which St. Paul visited three times, is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. It was already a major political and religious center when Mevlana arrived there in 1226.

He was a professor in the theological seminary and a preacher in the mosque.

Mevlana became so popular that everyone, from the sultan to the person selling fruit and vegetables on the street, referred to him as "our master."

Mevlana's message of love, peace, brotherhood and unity with God appealed to the people of that strife-torn time. Nevertheless, the religiously conservative citizens objected to his use of stringed instruments, drums and reed flutes. This music accompanied whirling through which he and his disciples sought to align themselves with nature and thus with God.

Mevlana insisted, however, that prayer has a motion.

His followers eventually developed the distinctive whirling movement of their unique prayer ritual. Symbolic movements, special clothing and musical instruments



Courtesy photo

The Whirling Dervishes perform through Dec. 17 in Konya, a city located about 250 miles northwest of Adana.

are all part of the Mevlevi ceremony.

The dance, in three parts, represents the states of knowing God, seeing God and uniting with God. Ecstasy and passion were hallmarks of Mevlana's thoughts of art.

Mevlana brought mysticism to the excitement of poetic recitations, music and dance. He came to be revered by men of many faiths and symbolized the unity of mankind.

"There are hundreds of thousands of bodies, but only one soul." He said. Iranians claim him as a national poet since he wrote in Persian. Afghans love him, because he is a Turk and taught on their soil.

Before his death, Mevlana told his followers not to cry and mourn when he died; because for him, death was a "wedding day, a nuptial night." The day you get back to your origin, the day you get united with God.

At his funeral there was a large gathering of people from all backgrounds and religions who adhered to his peaceful and universal ideas.

His son founded the Mevlevi order in his name and built a mausoleum in Konya. It then became a gathering place for all humanity who came to respect his preachings of love, brotherhood, peace, humanity and tolerance.

Many nobles, politicians, artists and statesmen became members of his order. Ottoman sultans visited his tomb before

departing on long campaigns.

Since the 13th century, Konya's citizens have welcomed foreign tourists. Annual performances are given during the week preceding Dec. 17. To accommodate spectators, the dance is performed in a gymnasium decorated for the occasion.

Various travel agencies are offering trips to see the Whirling Dervishes.

## In Turkish

**sevgi - love**  
(sav-ghe)

**baris - peace**  
(bah-resh)

**kardeslik - brotherhood**  
(car-dash-lick)

**hosgoru - tolerance**  
(hosh-goh-rue)

**birlik - unity**  
(bee-lick)

*Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail [mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil](mailto:mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil).*

# THE INCIRLIK GUIDE

## Today

**Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** — The ceremony will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at the chapel. For more information, call at 6-6441.

**Apollo Night Comedy contest sign-up deadline** — All applicants must sign up at the cashier's cage in the club by 7 p.m. to be part of the show. Sign ups for 15-minute acts are open to the entire family. Cash prizes are available. For more information, call 6-6101.

## Saturday

**Harlem Globetrotters** — The Globetrotters will perform at the fitness center at 7 p.m. During the show a person from the crowd will have a chance to attempt a free throw for \$1,000. Volunteers are needed. To volunteer, call 6-6966. For more information, call 6-8411.

**Breakfast with Santa** — Seating times are 8, 9 and 10 a.m. at the club. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children age 12 and younger. For more information, call 6-6010.

## Monday

**Apollo Night Comedy contest & Rich Little** — The comedy contest is at 6:30 p.m. followed by an 8 p.m. performance by Rich Little, comedian, in the club. For more information, call 6-6101.

**Club now opens Mondays** — The club is now open Mondays to better serve the Incirlik community. Mondays feature is the taco and potato bar. There is also a new sandwich menu, deli sandwiches and salad bar available every day. For more information, call 6-6101.

## Tuesday

**IAHS PTSC meets** — The Incirlik American High School Parent-Teacher-Student Club meets at 6 p.m. in the high school media

center room. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. John Herkel at 6-6439.

## Thursday

**AFSA meets** — The Air Force Sergeants Association meets at 11:30 a.m. this and every third Thursday in the enlisted lounge at the club. New members welcome. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Adena Eberhardt at 6-9538.

## Upcoming

**Christmas Day meal** — The Sultan's Inn hosts a Christmas meal Dec. 25 for all Defense Department ID card holders. Lunch is 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and dinner is 4:30 to 8 p.m. Pricing is a la carte. For more information, call 6-6016.

**New Year's Eve celebration at club** — The club sponsors a New Year's Eve celebration Dec. 31 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the club cashier's cage and cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Cost includes dinner, breakfast buffet and live entertainment by the Dina Preston band. For more information, call 6-6101.

**New Year's Eve semi-formal event** — The Incirlik Masons sponsors a semiformal New Year's celebration at an off-base venue Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Cost is \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. Dress is semiformal. For location and more information, call Chelsea Timmons at 6-1256, David Mizelle at 6-6452, Darryl Ross at 6-6602, or Cedric Smith at 6-3252.

## Ongoing

**Fund raising opportunity** — Units or organizations interested in taking advantage of the opportunity to wrap shoppers' gifts for donations can sign up for available dates and times of their choice Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The base exchange provides supplies including tape, gift wrap, scissors, ribbon and location (lobby of the main store). For more information or to schedule a time, call Ann Yi or Sandra Moriarity at 6-6937 or 6-6543.

## COMBAT & SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS



## Today

**Crossroads Café** — The 39th Communications Squadron hosts food, fun and fellowship at the Crossroads Café from 7 to 11 p.m. Open to everyone ages 18 and older. For more information, call Senior Airman Tianna Milagro at 6-6441.

## Saturday

**Crossroads Café** — The Gospel Service hosts food, fun and fellowship at the Crossroads Café from 6 to 10 p.m. Open to everyone. For more information, call Senior Airman Tianna Milagro at 6-6441.

**Catholic Bible study** — Catholic Bible study meets Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. in the chapel conference room. For more information, call Michael Luna at 6-9180.

## Sunday

**Catholic Youth of the Chapel** — Catholic Youth of the Chapel meets at 5 p.m. in the Crossroads Café. For more information, call Larry Schneck at 6-5747.

## Upcoming

**Project CHEER** — Project CHEER, with the support of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and U.S. Air Forces in Europe Services, offers free movies with one serving of popcorn and a soda for attendants of movies showing Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Featured movies and show

times to be announced. Although this opportunity targets unaccompanied Airmen, entrance will be on a first come, first served basis and other members of the community will not be turned away. For more information, call Project CHEER headquarters at 6-6966.

## Ongoing

**Dear Reader** — For people who love to read, but can't find the time an on-line book club is now available. To join Dear Reader.Com visit [www.usafe.libraries.org](http://www.usafe.libraries.org).

**Reading Patch Club** — Read books and earn patches and prizes at the library. The club is open to grades kindergarten through twelfth. Sign up at the library. For more information, call 6-6759.

**CCAF** — For help starting on a Community College of the Air Force Degree program, call the education center and set up an appointment at 6-3211.

**Combat Education notice to all fiscal 2004 graduates** — People who graduated from a regionally or nationally accredited postsecondary institution within the past year and were unable to participate in a graduation ceremony can contact the education center today. For more information, call Angela Williams at 6-9664.

**MGIB** — For answers to questions about the Montgomery GI Bill, visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).



# WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



**Senior Airman Michael Shaw,**  
728th Air Mobility Squadron  
functional systems administrator

**Time in service:** Three years and 4 months

**Hometown:** Conroe, Texas

**Time on station:** Six months

**Hobbies:** Hiking, computers and anything outdoors

**Why did you join the Air Force?**

To serve my country with a great career

**What do you like most about Incirlik?** Loca-

tion in Turkey with all the great outdoors nearby

**How do you contribute to the air base wing's mission?** Assist in keeping up all communications to bring passengers and cargo in and out of Incirlik

**What is your favorite motto?**

"Be happy with what God has given you."

This is great because there are always those that have it much worse than what I have it.

**What Air Force core value best describes you?** Excellence in all we do. I put this in my daily life because I take pride in what I do. If I don't do it right the first time, then it is wasted time to come back and fix it again.

**Supervisor's quote:**

"Senior Airman Shaw is a model Airman; he has incredible work ethic and epitomizes the core value 'service before self,'" said Capt. Randy Allen, 728th AMS executive officer.

"The base's airlift and tanker missions would not move without great people like Senior Airman Shaw. I'm honored to nominate him for Warrior of the Week."

are needed. For more information, call youth programs at 6-3246 06 6670.



The key (above) is the solution for the crossword puzzle published in the Dec. 3 edition of the *Tip of the Sword*. Crossword puzzles are published in the first TOS edition of every month with solutions printed in the following edition. For more information, call 6-6060 or e-mail the *Tip of the Sword* staff at [tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil](mailto:tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil)

# YOUR TURN



To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail [tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil](mailto:tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil)

**Do you plan to share your holiday traditions with friends, co-workers or Turkish nationals?**

"During Thanksgiving, my wife and I invited the Airmen in my shop who weren't going home for the holidays and have a big dinner."

— **Senior Airman Joshua Murphy**, 39th Communications Squadron



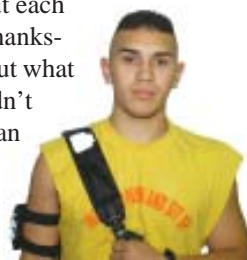
"I'm from Louisiana so I like to make traditional Cajun food, for Thanksgiving I shared it with people from my and my husband's work places."

— **Angela Williams**, Education Center



"For Christmas I like to get together with my friends and talk about each other's traditions. For Thanksgiving I liked to talk about what we have now that we didn't have in the past so we can see how far we've come since then."

— **Senior Airman Robert Luna**, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron



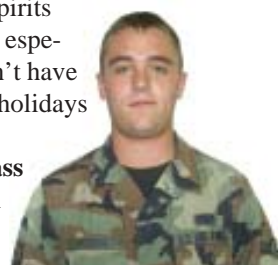
"I'm going to talk to my Turkish friends and learn about their holidays and teach them about mine."

— **Staff Sgt. Emilia Rodriguez**, 39th Medical Squadron



"I like to get all my friends together and we keep everyone's spirits high for the holidays, especially people who don't have anyone to spend the holidays with."

— **Airman 1st Class Michael Perdun**, 39th Security Forces Squadron



## CLASSIFIEDS

**For sale:** Computer desk in good condition, \$50 OBO. Call Danielle at 6-5238, please leave a message.

**Job vacancy:** A sharp dedicated NCO interested in providing first-term Airmen critical information to begin a successful career in the Air Force is needed. Applicants must be a technical sergeant or a master sergeant with at least 12 months left on station. Applications are due no later than Dec. 2. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Jeanna Morgan at 6-6400.

**Enrichment spaces available:** The child development center preschool and toddler enrichment classes have limited seats available in each class. Classes are available for 2 and 3 year olds and 4 and 5 year olds. For more information, call 6-6553.

**Instructors needed:** Dog obedience, dance, self-defense and music instruments instructors



Project Wizard, a U.S. Air Forces in Europe special interest program, focuses on the opportunities to study and explore through libraries. For more information about the program or upcoming events, call the library at 6-6759.



Photos by Airman Bradley Lail

### Incirlik style

Incirlik units show their style with a creative flare as people come out to design billboard-size greeting cards. (Right to left) Staff Sgt. Denise Santiago, 39th Operations Squadron NCO in charge of personnel, and Master Sgt. Steven Konelick, 39th OS Air Traffic Control chief, spray the finishing touches on their squadrons Christmas card in front of the base club complex. All card creations are currently on display on the club lawn.



## AT THE MOVIES

### At the Oasis

#### Today

**First Daughter (PG)** – Starring Katie Holmes and Marc Blucas. Samantha Mackenzie wants what every college freshman desires: to experience life away from home and parents. But it's not going to be easy, because home for Sam is The White House and her dad is the President of the United States. Despite her fishbowl existence, Sam meets and falls for James, the Resident Advisor in her dorm. As romance blossoms, Sam discovers her new beau is a secret service agent assigned to protect her. Showing at 7 p.m. (105 minutes)



**Friday Night Lights (PG-13) (1st Run)** – Starring Billy Bob Thornton and Derek Luke.

Based on the book about high school football by H.G. Bissinger, Friday Night Lights chronicles the entire 1988 season of the Permian High Panthers of Odessa, Texas, with football players, coaches, mothers, fathers, boosters, fans and families struggling with ongoing personal conflicts while the team fights for a state championship. Showing at 9 p.m. (110 minutes)



#### Saturday

##### Raise Your Voice (PG-13) (1st Run) –



Starring Hillary Duff and Oliver James. A small-town girl gets the summer of her dreams when she gets to leave home for the summer and attend a performing-arts school in Los Angeles. Lacking in formal training, still hurting from the sudden death of her brother in a car accident, the girl is forced to move on, to heal emotionally and to find herself in the big city. Showing at 5 p.m. (103 minutes)

**Friday Night Lights (PG-13) (1st Run)** – Starring Billy Bob Thornton and Derek Luke.

Showing at 7 p.m. (110 minutes)

#### Sunday

##### Ladder 49 (PG-13) – Starring Joaquin

Phoenix and John Travolta.



Firefighter Jack Morrison has led an extraordinary career as a first responder. But the

sacrifices he's made have taken their toll on Jack's relationship with his wife, kids and friends. Those decisions finally come back to haunt young Jack when he's trapped in a serious blaze. Jack takes a fall in the middle of a four-alarm. As he lay unconscious, Jack's cigar-chewing boss does his best to save the young man, and Jack's career is retold in flashback. Showing at 7 p.m. (115 minutes)

### At the M1

**Intermission (R)** — 11:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 3:45 p.m., 5:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (105 minutes)

**Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (R)** — 11:30 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. (108 minutes)

**Alexander (R)** — 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 11 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. (173 minutes)

For more information and updates, call the movie recording at 6-6986 or the theater office at 6-9140. The provision of movie information does not constitute an endorsement by the 39th Air Base Wing, U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the U.S. Air Force. For more information, call the theater at 6-6986.